



DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

FIRST CLASS SHAFT/SLOPE FOREMAN – (COAL) West Virginia Reciprocal Agreement

PHOTO ID REQUIRED

PRIOR TO SCHEDULING EXAM MUST PROVIDE LETTER OF GOOD STANDING FROM RECIPROCATING STATE

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *First Class Shaft or Slope Foreman (Coal)*

This certification authorizes a miner to:

- Perform duties as a certified shaft or slope foreman/examiner at shaft or slope operations
- Conduct and record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE:

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. First Class Mine Foreman may conduct required examinations at shaft/slope locations.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
 - **Note:** Classes are limited to 20 people and tend to fill quickly. Application fees are due no later than 5 working days prior to the examination, but this will not guarantee that an opening will be available.
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Copy of current West Virginia foreman card
- Hold a General Miner Certification as part of this certification (A card will be issued)
- Letter of “good standing” from state of West Virginia
- **Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification**

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination

Applicants must pass the Mining Law section of the First Class Shaft/Slope examination in order for Virginia to reciprocity West Virginia foreman certification. If the mining law examination is failed, then the applicant may submit fee for retake of the examination 10 working days after the notification letter has been sent. If the applicant does not pass on the second try, the entire examination must be taken under the regular examination process for foreman certification.

ELEMENTS OF EXAM**NUMBER OF QUESTIONS**

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| ▪ Mining Laws (ML) | 20 |
| ▪ <u>Records</u> (Surface) | |
| Pre-shift/On-shift (PO) | |
| Gas Detection (GD) | |

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Mining Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide (\$30.00)

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Lebanon Field Office (276) 415-9650.